

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SOWERBY.



ANNUAL

REPORTS

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Inspector of Ruisances

FOR

1913.

SOWERBY BRIDGE;

William Ackroyd, Printer, Chronicle Office, Town Hall Street.

1914.



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SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December, 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1913.

Geological Formation — The District is situate on the dip-slope of a mill-stone grit formation, the rocks consisting of alternating beds of sandstones and shales, which dip, roughly, from N.W. to S.E. The lie of the strata is of great importance as regards contamination of wells from impurities higher up. The contour of the District is mountainous, and the surface, with the exception of some little agriculture, done chiefly for the purpose of improving the sward, is laid out in grass.

A considerable quantity of milk is produced, which is principally sold as new milk, the surplus being made into butter.

Fowl keeping has become a very popular and profitable hobby with men not engaged in farming.

Occupation — The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the foundries and factories in the valleys, many of them combining factory work with agricultural pursuits. As a result, the physique of the people will compare most favourably with that of the town dwellers in neighbouring districts.

In past times there has been a considerable amount of consanguineous marriage, which has not exerted a beneficial influence.

Yital Statistics.— The population of your District estimated to the middle of 1913 was 3,152. This was arrived at by taking 40 from the number recorded in the Census of 1912. The decrease in the population since the Census of 1901 shows that there is a steady flow of the population to the towns.

The District is gradually becoming peopled by comparatively aged folk, which will help to explain the very low birth-rate and the advanced age of a large proportion of the deaths.

Births.—Males 25, Females 19; Total 44. Birth-rate 13.9 per thousand per annum, against 14.0 per thousand during 1912, and 11.4 during 1911.

The Birth-rate for England and Wales during 1913 was 23.9 per thousand.

Deaths.—Males 20, Females 25; Total 45. Death-rate 14.2 per thousand per annum, against 12.5 per thousand during 1912, and 14.5 during 1911.

The Death-rate for England and Wales during 1913 was 13.7 per thousand.

Infantile Mortality.—Three deaths have occurred during the year in children under one year, giving a mortality of 68.1 per thousand births. All three deaths wese due to premature birth.

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales during 1913 was 109 per thousand births.

Mortality at Subjoined Ages and Causes, See Tables.

Zymotic Diseases — During 1913 four cases have been reported, as against four cases for 1912, ten cases for 1911, and six cases for 1910. No Death reported from Zymotic Disease.

Diphtheria—Three cases reported during the year, all of mild type. Anti-toxin was supplied for use in one case.

Enteric Fever.—One case reported during the year. The infection was probably contracted in another District. The usual precautions were taken, and there was no spread of infection.

Epidemic Diarrhœa.—A few cases of ordinary type were present during the late summer.

Influenza.—A number of cases of a gastric type, with dizziness as a marked symptom, were present during the latter end of the year.

On March 12th and June 13th I visited Triangle School in connection with outbreaks of Diphtheria in the case of

children attending this School, and warned the Teachers, who were instructed to be on the look out for suspicious throats.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is now no Isolation Hospital in the District, but arrangements have been made with the Halifax Corporation for the reception of Small-pox cases in the Halifax Borough Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis Act, 1911.—Four cases with four deaths reported during the year. No Sanatorium or Hospital for accommodation of Phthisis cases in the District. The premises were disinfected in each case.

Tuberculosis Act, 1912 — Three cases reported.

Tuberculosis Order, 1913 — One cow reported suffering from Tuberculosis. The animal was promptly destroyed.

Bacteriological.—The Laboratory at Wakefield has rendered great service in aiding diagnosis, particularly in Diphtheria, Tuberculosis and Ringworm cases.

So far as possible a negative swab is obtained in cases of Diphtheria before a case is freed from quarantine.

A supply of Anti-toxin Serum is kept by the Medical Officer of Health and given free in desirable cases:

Housing.—Dwellings are built of stone and are, as a rule, scrupulously clean. There are no unhealthy areas. The back-yards and streets are mostly paved, especially where the houses are grouped together, as at Sowerby Town, Triangle and Mill Bank.

The sink-pipes are trapped and disconnected.

Forty-four houses were inspected during the year and records taken.

Fifteen houses were found defective owing, in a number of cases, to dampness, but the houses were made fit after preliminary notice.

In one case the local authority executed the work, in default of landlord.

Two houses were closed voluntarily.

Two houses were demolished voluntarily.

Some outlying blocks of houses have inadequate closet accommodation.

The sewers at Stile, Triangle, require replacing by properly laid pot pipes, as I consider the present system is not satisfactory.

There were 125 uninhabited houses in the District in the Census of 1911.

No new artisan dwellings have been built in the District this year.

Sewage.—The new system of sewage is now working, and the houses are being connected with the main sewer by properly laid pot pipes.

A ventilating column has been erected at the highest point of the sewer at Fieldhouse, and other ventilating columns are under consideration.

In a few outlying parts of the District the disposal of sewage from houses leaves something to be desired, as there is a risk of contaminating wells lower down the hill sides where the sewage flows on the land.

River Pollution.—No complaints by the Rivers Board.

Scavenging.—Done by owners and tenants. Some of the ashpits might, with advantage, be emptied at shorter intervals.

Privy Middens.—Covered.

Water Closets.—Tub and water closets in use, mostly the latter.

Cowsheds.—There is a marked improvement in the condition of the cowsheds in the District as regards cleanliness, but in some cases more attention will have to be paid to the general ventilation and lighting. On paying surprise visits to cowsheds throughout the District, with some exceptions, I found them very clean, and when suggestions were made, the directions were carried out. Where I have found a dirty mistal I make a point of paying special visits at unexpected times.

Slaughter-Houses.—Two. In good order and visited at time of slaughtering.

Common Lodging-Houses and Canal Boats -None in the District.

Offensive Trades.—One tripe-dresser. Condition clean.

Milk is of good quality, and is mostly sold outside the District. No samples have been taken for examination, and no complaint has been made from any District in which the milk is sold.

Food and Drugs' Act — There has been no occasion to examine under this Act.

Carcases Unfit for Food.—Nil.

Burial Grounds—Five. No need for extension.

Mortuary accommodation—nil.

Water Supply.—The District has a good and plentiful supply, Sowerby Town being supplied from a reservoir at Sowerby Green, and the outlying parts are dependent on springs which are numerous and yield well.

In connection with the supply to Sowerby Town, new pipes have been laid at Ball Green to prevent fouling of water during heavy rains.

There was a curtailment of this supply for some weeks in the summer owing to drought.

Two samples of water were analysed this year, but both were found to be pure and excellent for domestic purposes.

Some of the private supplies have a high acidity, and are liable to produce lead-poisoning, so that it is desirable for the owners of property to use the shortest possible lead piping in the service to the houses.

Factories and Workshop Acts—Three factories giving employment in the District. Condition satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—Three in good condition, clean and well-lighted. No underground bakehouses.

Home Work.—No lists received.

School Inspection.—Medical inspection is showing results in more attention on the part of parents to their children's ailments and general personal condition. In spite of this I find there are still a few families much below the general standard of cleanliness. This is a very serious matter, as these children mix freely with others in the Schools and are a source of worry and trouble to the parents of the better-cared-for children.

Meteorological.—Rainfall during 1913 (taken by Mr. J. Selwyn Rawson, at the Haugh End): 37.22 inches on 225 days, as compared with 53.46 inches in 1912.

Infantile Mortality.—Three deaths—all under one week. No health visitor. Pamphlets on Infant Feeding are distributed in the District.

Midwives' Act —Lying-in cases attended by registered midwives.

Notification of Births Act.—Not adopted.

Conclusion.—There has been no special incidence of disease during the year, and very few cases of epidemic disease. Most of the deaths, as might be expected, are those of very old persons. I find a considerable improvement from a sanitary point of view in many directions. The active steps taken in the case of cowsheds are bearing fruit, and I feel sure when the farmers come to recognise that these measures tend, in the long run, to their advantage, that the improvement in the condition of the cowhouses will continue.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours obediently,

JOHN A. ADAMS, B.A., M.B.

TABLE 1.-Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

			Births.		TOTAL REGISTER	Total Deaths egistered in the	Transferable Deaths.	ERABLE THS.	NETI	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	BELONGI.	NG TO
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1909	3487	43	43	12.3	38	10.8	nil	10	4	93.0	43	12.3
1910	3467	45	45	12.9	36	10.2	liu	∞	m	9.99	#	12.6
1911	3232	37	37	11.4	+	13.6	liu	Ω,	nil	0	47	10
1912	3192	45	. 45	14.0	36	11.2	nil	1	<i>C</i> 1	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	40	12.5
1913	3152	1	+	13.9	39	12.3	nii	9	m	68.1	75	14.2

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 2.462.

Total population at all ages, 3,232; Number of inhabited houses, 903; Average No. of persons per house, 3.5. (At Census 1911).

65 & HOSPITAL REMOVED TOTAL CASES TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913. TO nil 65 w'rds 15 to 25 to 45 to up-NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED. At Ages-Years. of co 3 under 1 to 70 Atall Ages. \sim Membranous Croup Other forms of Tuberculosis Cerebro-spinal Meningitis NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diphtheria (including Relapsing Fever Continued Fever Puerperal Fever Scarlet Fever... Totals Typhus Fever Enteric Fever Poliomvelitis Erysipelas Small-pox Cholera

Isolation Hospital: Halifax Borough Isolation Hospital. Sanatoria, &c: Morton Banks Sanatorium, Keighley.

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TABLE III.

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	CAUSES O	Causes of Death.			A Ge	All U ages 1	Under u	l and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and 25 and under under 25 45	25 and under 45	15 and under 65	65 and up- wards	Residents or Non-Residnts in Institutions
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SUB-ENTRIES.—Septic Pheumonia, 1 at 5 and under 15 years.

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

					C							
Cause of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under	4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified Uncertified		3										3
Small-pox Chicken-pox Measles Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Diphtheria and Croup Erysipelas Tuberculosis Meningitis Abdominal Tuberculosis Other Tuberculous Diseas Meningitis (not Tuberculous Convulsions Laryngitis Bronchitis Pneumonia (all forms) Diarrhæa Enteritis Gastritis Syphilis Syphilis Rickets Suffocation, overlying Injury at birth Atelectasis Congenital Malformations Premature birth Atrophy, Debility & Marass Other causes	s (c)	3										
Totals		3			-		1				1	3

Nett Births | legitimate 44. in the year | illegitimate nil.

Nett Deaths in | legitimate infants 3. the year of | illegitimate infants nil.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town House, Sowerby,

February, 1914.

Ruisance Inspector's Annual Report,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1913.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my first Annual Report of the sanitary condition of the District for your consideration.

The Nuisances of the past year show an increase over the preceding year, 41 informal notices having been served, and two statutory notices. Both these cases were proceeded against, and the Council were successful in gaining the necessary abatement orders.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—There are 94 Cowsheds in your District, and 90 Cowkeepers. The number of Milksellers within the District is 90, and the number registered is 90. The number of Cows is, I believe, about 550. The Medical Officer of Health and myself have carefully inspected the Cowsheds at various times during the year, and found them to be kept in a fairly clean condition. I have pleasure in stating that the Cowkeepers are beginning to find out the advantages of improved lighting and ventilation, though in many cases there is much room for improvement. The drainage is not all that one could wish for, though in the main it is fairly good. There has been no complaint of the quality of the milk sold in the District, nor any action taken by other Districts to which milk is sent.

Scavenging—The scavenging of Privies and Ashpits is still done by the owners and tenants, and cannot be termed satisfactory, owing to the periods of cleaning being too far between. During the year six earth closets have been built to replace old privies and ashpit, five w.c.'s, two ashpits and closets rebuilt, and three additions.

Sewers and Drains.—During the year 125 yards of 6in. Sewer has been laid at Broad Lane, 20 yards of 4in. drains and six disconnections. Connections into the Sewer have been made at Field House, and one 6-in. ventilator inserted at the summit point of this sewer. There are still some at Triangle and Mill Bank need your attention.

Bakehouses.—There are three Bakehouses in your District. They have been regularly inspected during the year, and have always been found clean, pure, well ventilated and lighted, a good supply of water, and effectual drainage.

Nuisances —The increased number of nuisances during the year have been chiefly over accumulations of manure, and the ashpits being over-full. In the latter, the complaint of those responsible for this work is, that no suitable refuse tip is available. I would draw your special attention to this matter.

Water Supply.—The water during the year has been of fairly good quality. Two samples have been analysed, and found quite wholesome. 120 yards of 4in. pipes have been laid at Ball Green, which is an improvement to this water. As you are aware, a few of the wells have failed during the excessive drought, and the supply for Sowerby Town was curtailed for some weeks.

Housing, etc., Act.—Forty-four houses have been visited and duly recorded (as per Local Government Board's requirements). Two cases of overcrowding were brought before your notice. This matter is still pending, owing to lack of suitable houses. As previously reported, a slight amount of dampness was found, which I trust will now soon be remedied. A few of these houses had not water inside, but had suitable wells, etc., within a short distance of the dwellings. Light and ventilation generally fairly good, but I feel compelled to draw your attention to, in many cases, the insufficient closet accommodation. Additional closets have been constructed at two places, and I trust more will be constructed in the near future. The general cleanliness of the dwellings visited, without exception, were fairly good. I hope to inspect as many of the houses during the present year as possible, which will be reported to you each month in my Report.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Medical Officer of Health, the Council and Sanitary Committee, for the valuable assistance and kindness during the short time I have been with you.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN SMITH,

Inspector of Nuisances.

